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Behavioral Drugs, and Testing

1. CIA has had a recurring interest in behavioral drugs. The subject is of general interest because of the operational applications that could be made against Agency employees by hostile forces, for which there would be a defensive requirement, as well as for possible use against foreigners to influence their behavior. The earliest record of this interest dates to the post-WWII period when there were indications of Soviet interest in the use of drugs for such purposes, the most famous example being the bizarre confessions of Cardinal Mindszenty in February 1949.

2. In the past CIA's interest in behavioral drugs was expressed in at least three programs, which have been identified. These programs apparently proceeded on largely independent courses, subject to some informal coordination by a group referred to as the ARTICHOKE Committee, which started in April 1952. This mechanism provided the means for exchanging information and for deciding which components would assume responsibility for certain study and research. Representation on the ARTICHOKE Committee was from the Offices of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) and Medical Services (OMS) and the predecessor organizations of the Offices of Security (OS) and Technical Services (OTS). The ARTICHOKE Committee initially was concerned with drugs that would assist in interrogation, but the concept expanded to include drugs that would serve as a defense against hostile application to Agency employees as well as drugs that would afford some control when administered to an individual. Remaining records, which are not complete, refer to sodium pentothal and sodium amytal, as well as LSD.

BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE

3. In 1949 the Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) undertook the analysis of foreign work on certain unconventional warfare techniques, including behavioral drugs, with an initial objective of developing a capability to resist or offset the effect of behavioral drugs. Preliminary phases included the review of drug-related work at institutions such as

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There also was extensive review of foreign literature, particularly work

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in the Soviet Bloc. This program shortly became Project BLUEBIRD with the objectives of (a) discovering means of conditioning personnel to prevent unauthorized extraction of information from them by known means, (b) investigating the possibility of obtaining control of an individual by application of special interrogation techniques, (c) memory enhancement, and (d) establishing defensive means for preventing hostile control of Agency personnel.

4. In August 1951 Project BLUEBIRD was renamed Project ARTICHOKE which, in 1952, was transferred from OSI to the predecessor organization of the Office of Security. OSI did retain a responsibility for evaluation of foreign intelligence aspects of the matter and in 1953 made a proposal that experiments be made in testing LSD with Agency volunteers; OSI records indicate that no such experiments were made. OSI's involvement in this project was terminated in 1956. Meanwhile, the emphasis given ARTICHOKE in the predecessor organization to the Office of Security became that of use of materials such as sodium pentothal in connection with interrogation techniques and with the polygraph.

5. There are references to ARTICHOKE Teams travelling to Europe and East Asia during the 1950s, for the apparent purpose of interrogation of foreign agents, but the results of such operations are not revealed by existing records.

MKDELTA/MKULTRA/MKSEARCH

6. On 29 October 1952 a formal policy was established by the Deputy Director of Plans (as then styled, now Deputy Director for Operations) for the use of biochemicals in clandestine operations (MKDELTA). This was in anticipation of the development of behavioral drugs, but was never implemented operationally. MKDELTA research was brought under a special funding procedure established on 3 April 1953 (MKULTRA). The program considered various possible means for controlling human behavior of which drugs were only one aspect, others being radiation, electro-shock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, harrassment substances, and paramilitary devices and materials. There were contacts with individuals at such institutions as the [redacted] and the [redacted] as well as with various pharmaceutical houses, hospitals and federal institutions, the names of which are no longer available.

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Among the materials studied were psylocbin from Mexican mushrooms, a fungus occurring in certain crops, and LSD. Following laboratory testing a second phase was begun which involved testing on voluntary participants. The final phase involved application on unwitting subjects, in normal social situations, commencing in 1955 under an informal arrangement with individuals in the Bureau of Narcotics. Originally conducted on the West Coast, a similar arrangement was instituted in 1961 on the East Coast. Such tests were conducted from time to time until 1963 when the Inspector General discovered the activity and questioned the program. At that time it was reported that in a number of instances test subjects became ill for hours or days following the application, and there was one reported instance of hospitalization, the details of which are no longer available. Project records do not now exist, but it is reported that the project was decreased significantly each budget year until it was completely terminated in the late 1960's.

7. Follwing the Inspector General's challenge of the program, there was a review of its nature and it was resubmitted for approval under the name of Project MKSEARCH. The written proposal did not specify whether testing was to be limited to volunteers. Records indicate that the DCI did not approve unwitting testing; it is understood that there was no renewal of this aspect of the activity. Funding for MKSEARCH commenced in FY-1966, running through 1972. There were various research activities carried on under it, but the only aspect related to behavioral drugs deal with an inquiry in improvement by drugs of learning ability and memory retention; under this there is a record of testing at Iden 1 State Prison in Iden 5 on volunteers.

Drug-related Death of an Investigator

8. The predecessor organization of the Office of Technical Service was the focal point for the operational investigation of behavioral drugs, although none of the office's records on this activity are in existence, having been destroyed in January 1973. As noted above it participated in the meetings of the so-called ARTICHOKE Committee. That office maintained liaison with personnel at Iden 6 , with whom meetings were held once or twice a year to discuss questions involving behavioral drugs. At one such meeting at Iden 7 in Maryland, Iden 8 1953, with seven representatives from Iden 6 and three from CIA, eight of those present were administered LSD which had been introduced into a bottle of Cointreau. Although records of an inquiry by the Inspector General into the incident indicate that those present

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discussed testing on unwitting persons, and agreed in principle that such a program should be explored, none of them were advised until some 20 minutes after they drank the Cointreau that it had been treated with LSD. Of the two who did not take it, one did not drink alcoholic beverages at all and the other refrained because of a heart condition. One of the members of the group, a civilian employee of the Department of Army named Iden 9, had serious after-effects. He was sent at CIA expense, with an escort from CIA to New York where he received treatment from a psychiatrist, commencing Iden 10. While in New York for this treatment he threw himself through a closed window in his room on the tenth floor of the Iden 11, falling to his death. CIA, in a document of Iden 12, signed by its General Counsel, certified Iden 9 death resulted from "circumstances arising out of an experiment undertaken in the course of his official duties for the United States Government." This was the official position of the Agency, established for the purpose of assuring that the survivors of Iden 9 received compensation from the BEC. Iden 9 had experienced some instability and delusions prior to the incident, and it was judged that the drug served to trigger the act leading to his death. Reprimands were issued by the DCI to two CIA employees held responsible for the incident.

OFTEN/CHICKWIT

9. In 1967 the Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the Edgewood Arsenal Research Laboratories undertook a program for doing research on the identification and characterization of drugs that could influence human behavior. Edgewood had the facilities for the full range of laboratory and clinical testing. A phased program was envisioned that would consist of acquisition of drugs and chemical compounds believed to have effects on the behavior of humans, and testing and evaluating these materials through laboratory procedures and toxicological studies. Compounds believed promising as a result of tests on animals were then to be evaluated clinically with human subjects at Edgewood. Substances of potential use would then be analyzed structurally as a basis for identifying and synthesizing possible new derivatives of greater utility.

10. The program was divided into two projects. Project OFTEN was to deal with testing the toxicological, transmisivity and behavioral effects of drugs in animals and, ultimately, humans. Project CHICKWIT was concerned with acquiring information on new drug developments in Europe and the Orient, and with acquiring samples.

11. Samples of drugs and chemicals were obtained from drug and pharmaceutical companies, government agencies such as Edgewood, NIH, FDA and the Veterans Administration, as well as from research laboratories and individual researchers. Most of the materials came from the drug industry, consisting largely of substances that had been rejected because of undesired side effects from the point of view of medicinal use.

12. A panel was established to review the program, with membership from [redacted], and the predecessor organization of the [redacted]. Meetings were held periodically, and briefings were given senior officials from time to time. The principal contractor under OFTEN was Iden 2, commencing FY-1966. The association with Edgewood started with a transfer of funds to Edgewood in FY-1967, for work to be done by Iden 3 under CHICKWIT. Synthesis of new drugs and derivatives was contracted with Iden 4, starting FY-1971. Data from this program was merged [redacted] with test data and information from other sources. One substance identified as a potential incapacitant was in an area known to be the subject of research by the Soviet Union, being considered a potential threat to U. S. leaders because of the ease with which it could be administered.

13. CIA's program was terminated in January 1973, its final billing from Edgewood being received in April of that year. Edgewood did not progress to testing materials on human volunteer subjects under the work sponsored by CIA.

14. With CIA's termination of the program, the program data was withdrawn [redacted] and limited records being sequestered and stores under special controls where they still are.

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INFLUENCING HUMAN BEHAVIOR

ACTIVITY: Factors Influencing Human Behavior

PROGRAMS: To understand and identify factors which contribute or are believed to contribute to influencing human behavior. The studies fall into three categories: (a) personality factors; (b) techniques; and (c) methods to detect whether or not the techniques have been used. The categories are interactive, that is, it is impossible to do studies in category (c) without also going through procedures (b) and selection procedures which fall in category (a).

Because the terms "influencing behavior" or "controlling behavior" can readily be misconstrued, it is important to define the terms and to understand the procedures that were pursued, how and by whom. By "influence and control" is meant increasing the probability of occurrence of an outcome at least for predictive purposes. Techniques that have been examined are [redacted] In each instance, our projects effectively supplemented a research program that was already on-going in the principal investigator's facility, which was being funded by non-Agency sources and the results of which had already been published, at least, in part in the open professional literature. In short, the unofficial or at least not-formalized policy has been to identify acknowledged expertise through open professional literature and supplement already on-going research programs. None of the work has been classified, the association with the Agency commonly was classified. Completed studies of the research have been published without acknowledgment of Agency sponsorship.

CONTRACTOR: [redacted] Iden l, 1965-1967

[redacted]

CONTRACTOR: [redacted] Iden l, 1974

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INFLUENCING HUMAN BEHAVIOR (continued)

A great many of the Behavioral Science research projects are dependent upon human volunteer subjects. Current practice is to adhere strictly to the HEW guidelines concerning the use of human subjects and all current contracts carry language to that effect, as well as assurances that the anonymity of volunte subjects will be maintained. Prior to the existence of the published HEW guidelines, the working policy followed by [redacted] was to have the principal investigators adhere to the institutic professional, and ethics criteria that were ordinarily used... In short, research subjects being used on Agency-sponsored researc were to be treated no differently than research subjects on projects sponsored by other U.S. Government or private groups.

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